

C1 -This application is a continuation of application Serial
Number 08/726,468, filed October 4, 1996, now abandoned.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 20, 21, 22, 26 and 28 to read as follows:

C2 20. (Twice Amended) A system according to claim 9,
wherein said at least one adsorbent is honeycomb shaped and has a
hollow central portion at which honeycomb cells are absent, said
hollow central portion extending in the direction of flow of
exhaust gas.

21. (Twice Amended) A system according to claim 11,
wherein said at least one adsorbent is honeycomb shaped and has a
hollow central portion at which honeycomb cells are absent, said
hollow central portion extending in the direction of flow of
exhaust gas.

C2 22. (Twice Amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein said at least one adsorbent is honeycomb shaped and has a hollow central portion at which honeycomb cells are absent, said hollow central portion extending in the direction of flow of exhaust gas.

26. (Twice Amended) A system for exhaust gas purification, consisting essentially of:

C3 an adsorbent zone comprising at least one adsorbent capable of adsorbing harmful substance in an exhaust gas and a catalyst zone comprising at least one catalyst containing a catalyst component capable of reducing said harmful substances, said adsorbent zone and said catalyst zone being provided in-line in an exhaust pipe of an internal combustion engine with said adsorbent zone being upstream of said catalyst zone with respect to flow of said exhaust gas, in which system harmful substances in an exhaust gas during cold engine start up of the internal combustion engine are adsorbed by the adsorbent and the adsorbed harmful substances are desorbed from the adsorbent with a temperature rise of the adsorbent caused by the heat of the exhaust gas and are burnt on the catalyst,

C3 wherein the adsorbent contains an H/ β -zeolite having an SiO₂/AlO₃ ratio of 100 or more, and said adsorbent has a honeycomb shape with a hollow central portion at which honeycomb cells are absent, said hollow central portion extending in the direction of flow of exhaust gas.

28. (Amended) A system for exhaust gas purification, consisting essentially of:

C4 a first catalyst zone comprising at least one catalyst containing a catalyst component capable of reducing harmful substances in an exhaust gas; an adsorbent zone comprising at least one adsorbent capable of adsorbing said harmful substances; and a second catalyst zone comprising at least one catalyst containing a catalyst component capable of reducing said harmful substances; said first catalyst zone, said adsorbent zone and said second catalyst zone being provided in-line in an exhaust pipe of an internal combustion engine and without means for transferring heat from the first catalyst zone to the second catalyst zone, wherein said first catalyst zone is upstream of said adsorbent zone and said adsorbent zone is upstream of said second catalyst zone with

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respect to flow of said exhaust gas; in which system harmful substances in an exhaust gas during cold engine start up of the internal combustion engine are adsorbed by the adsorbent and the adsorbed harmful substances are desorbed from the adsorbent with a temperature rise of the adsorbent caused by the heat of the exhaust gas and are burnt in the second catalyst zone, wherein the adsorbent contains an H/ β -zeolite having an $\text{SiO}_2/\text{AlO}_3$ ratio of 100 or more, and said adsorbent has a honeycomb shape with a hollow central portion at which honeycomb cells are absent, said hollow central portion extending in the direction of flow of exhaust gas.

REMARKS

The reference to related applications on page 1 of the specification has been amended as proposed in the Action to overcome the objection to the disclosure.

Claims 20, 21, 22, 26 and 28 have been amended as proposed in the Action to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The limitation "without means for transferring